

THE AMAZING ATARI PERSONAL COMPUTERS

The Atari range of personal computers and peripherals are due in the UK in June. Three consoles are available: the Atari 400 with 8K bytes of RAM installed, the Atari 400 with 16K bytes of RAM installed and the Atari 800 with 16K bytes of RAM installed. All consoles when connected to a standard UK colour (or black and white) TV set can generate the most amazing graphics you've ever seen.

In addition you'll need the Atari Cassette Tape Program Recorder to store your programs and data or to run the amazing Atari Talk and Teach cassettes that make learning easy and fun. The Atari computers can also play games with you like Chess, Blackjack, Star Raiders, Super Breakout and, of course, Space Invaders and the new game that's sweeping the country: Asteroids.

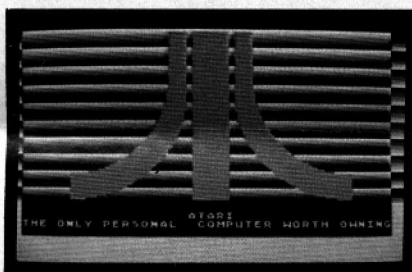
But best of all, it's easy to program and easy to use — look at these great features: Video display has upper and lower case characters with true descenders. Double size and quad size text.



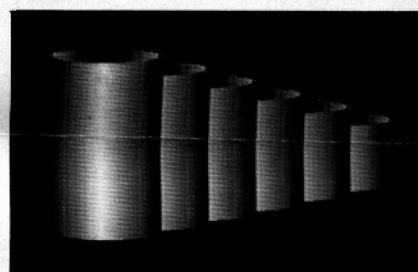
The Atari 400 Console.



The Atari 800 Console with cover removed.



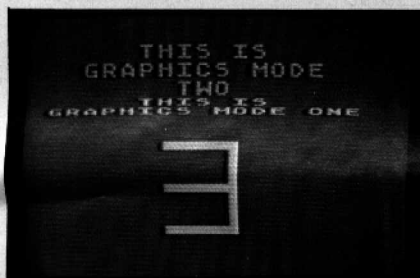
Superb colours.



Amazing graphics.



Star raiders.



Graphics modes.



Standard graphics blocks as well as plottable points.

Eight pages of graphics ranging from 20 x 20 to 320 x 192 plottable points (with 8K, only to 160 x 96). Ability to set background colour, plotting colour, text colour and border colour to any one of 16 colours with up to eight levels of illuminance.

Extended graphics control and high speed

action using a DMA chip with its own instruction set.

Four programmable sound generators are provided each of which can be played individually or together.

Each generator has 1785 possible sounds and can be played at any one of eight volume settings.

57 key alphanumeric keyboard plus 4 func-

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMERS



A range of high quality toroidal transformers featuring low magnetic interference, small size and weight, low noise and excellent regulation. A mounting kit is supplied which allows easy mounting to a chassis by placing one neoprene washer below and one above the transformer and bolting the dished washer down on top. Note that an antisurge fuse should always

be used as the mains fuse with toroidal transformers as they exhibit a very high initial surge current at switch on.

All types have 240V primary and two separate identical secondaries colour coded: Secondary one start: Red; Secondary one finish: Yellow; Secondary two start: Blue; Secondary two finish: Grey. (Primaries are Orange.) *Continued on page 4*

SUMMER PRICE FIGHTERS

There are hundreds of price reductions on our price list this time. All items reduced in price are marked ■. In addition we still have stocks of some items in our 79/80 catalogue that are not included in our current catalogue. To clear our stocks we are offering them at ridiculous prices, so pick up a bargain now!

BW96E DIN line socket latching 5-pin 'A'	Price 59p
BW97F DIN chassis socket latching 3-pin	Price 25p
BX09K 500V Disc ceramic capacitor 330pF	Price 4p
FL88V Edge connector 0-15in 8-way	Price 19p
FL90X Edge connector 0-15in 16-way	Price 32p
FQ46A Stylus Sony ND100 diamond	Price £2.99
FQ47B Stylus Sony ND114 diamond	Price £1.90

FQ82D Ignition capacitor Delco-Remy type	Price 29p
FQ83E Ignition capacitor Lucas type	Price 29p
FQ84F Ignition capacitor Ford type	Price 29p
FQ85G Car thermostat 54mm dia. 82°C	Price £1.99
FX52G Slide pot log 1k	Price 59p
FX64U Thermistor 6.8Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
FX65V Thermistor 10Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
FX67X Thermistor 33Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
FX84F Thermistor 47Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
FX85G Thermistor 150Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
FX86T Thermistor 470Ω at 25°C	Price 29p
HB00A Dual slide pot log 1k	Price 59p
HR40T Stylus BSR ST9 LP/78 sapphire	Price 35p

HR41U Stylus BSR ST9 LP/78 dia./sapphire	Price 39p
LR08J Input Jack identification tab	Price 9p
LR12N Stereo general purpose module front panel	Price 99p
LR37S Mixer input mounting plate	Price 59p
LR40T Mixer module tab	Price 9p
WH42V Choke 150μH	Price 35p
WH43W Choke 220μH	Price 35p
WH44X Choke 330μH	Price 35p
WH46A Choke 680μH	Price 35p
XQ68Y Collinear antenna 450 to 470MHz	Price £5.99
XQ69A LM150 Kit contains whip and loading coil for 3dB gain on 2m band	Price £6.99
XX18U Plugblock 34 x 5 holes (217L-type)	Price £2.29
XX19V Plugblock 68 x 5 holes (234L-type)	Price £3.49

All items offered while stocks last only.

THIS MONTH'S TWO SPECIAL OFFERS

4116 16K DYNAMIC RAM

This most popular dynamic RAM, access time <250ns. We've reduced the normal price anyway this time, but for our subscribers only we are able to offer this amazing price for a pack of four.

Usual price for 4: £9.96

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE ONLY £7.99 per pack of 4

SAVE NEARLY £2!

ORDER AS SP61R

OFFER CLOSES 29th AUGUST 1981

ORDERS PLACED WITH US AT THE SPECIAL OFFER PRICES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF ACCOMPANIED BY THE SPECIAL OFFER COUPON SUPPLIED FREE TO EVERYONE ON OUR MAILING LIST.

THIS PANEL IS NOT THE SPECIAL OFFER COUPON

THE 'TIMETOUGH' ELECTRONIC TIMESWITCH



The electronic timeswitch that plugs straight into a 13A socket and allows you to switch appliances up to 3kW on and off at times preset on the 24-hour clock. Full details were given in our March newsletter. This device has proved very popular and we are pleased to offer our subscribers a big saving.

Usual price £24.80

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE ONLY £21.80

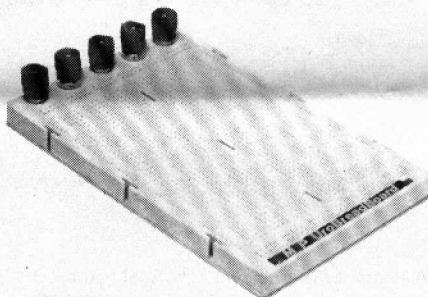
SAVE £3.00!

ORDER AS SP60Q

SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD FOR MICROPROCESSORS

A large version of the Eurobreadboard described on catalogue page 144. In addition this plugblock has 5 large screw terminals marked -5V, +5V, -12V, +12V and Earth and colour-coded black, red, black, red, green respectively for connection to power supply.

The plugblock has a total of 1422 contacts arranged in four blocks of 47 rows of four interconnected sockets, and two blocks of 47 rows of five interconnected sockets on a 0.1 x 0.1in. matrix and six other rows, four of 30 and two of 40 interconnected sockets arranged around the edges of the main matrix for use as bus-bars. A non-slip rubber backing is fixed to the board. Boards may be clipped together horizontally to form larger arrays and they will clip to the Professional Plugblock (YR84F) and the Bus Strip (YR85G). All contact positions are clearly identified on an alpha-numerical grid.



Contacts: Nickel-silver

Contact resistance: <10mΩ

Contact rating: 1A

Contact life: >5000 insertions

Accepts wires dia.: 0.25 to 0.85mm

Dimensions: 159 x 100 x 21mm

Order As XX42V (MP Urobreadboard)

Price £20.99

ATARI VIDEO GAME NEW CARTRIDGES

All the game cartridges shown in our 1981/82 catalogue are now available including the amazing English Championship Soccer which now has 54 game versions on the cartridge. Four new cartridges are due for release during the life of this newsletter as follows:

Othello

4 games using joysticks. Release date: May 1981.

Order As AC41U (Othello Game) Price £23.95

Video Pinball

4 games using joysticks. Release date: May 1981.

Order As AC42V (Video Pinball) Price £23.95

Asteroids

64 games using joysticks. Better than Space Invaders!! Release date: late June 1981.

Order As AC43W (Asteroids Game) Price £29.95

War Lords

28 games using paddles. Release date: late June 1981.

Order As AC44X (War Lords Game) Price £23.95

There are lots more exciting new cartridges due for release later this year including the fantastic "Missile Command" as well as Flag Capture, Sea Wolf, Stellar Trek and Super Breakout. More details in our next newsletter.

TRANSFORMERS FOR MOSFET AMP KIT

Two types of transformer are available to use in the power supply for the MOSFET amp kit. The 2A type is suitable for running one amp whilst the 4A type will run a stereo pair. Both have a 240V primary and secondary voltage of 32-0-32V.

Order As:

YK02C (Tr 32-0-32 2A) Price £11.95

YK07H (Tr 32-0-32 4A) Price £20.95

Letters to the Editor

Excellent Service

Dear Sir,
Thank heavens you are reconsidering your earlier plan to discontinue the much appreciated newsletter and at £1.00 for seven issues it's still great value for money. How on earth you produced it previously at 30p for six issues is beyond me. Therefore, as requested, I've indicated my approval by placing the code XF91Y on my order form.

Not only is receiving the newsletter by mail more convenient but I have experienced difficulty in obtaining your catalogue and as for the new magazine, my local newsagents have never heard of it. So I hope you'll appreciate how relieved I am to read of your idea to reconsider continuing the newsletter.

In conclusion I must add that I disagree with the reader who complained of inefficient service by the Maplin staff. On the contrary I consider it excellent in comparison with other mail order distributors and the comprehensive range is comparable to none. Therefore I'll forgive you for the minor hiccups, especially when other companies are spluttering and coughing up items never ordered in the first place.

Carry on with your excellent service. A service that is reflected by repeat orders and approved recommendations.

J. STONES
Dronfield, Derbyshire

It is disappointing to learn that your newsagents have never heard of E&MM. It was heavily advertised in the news trade press and every wholesaler in the country had plenty of copies. Nevertheless, despite the average newsagent, where E&MM is on the bookshelves it is selling very well and we understand that on the May issue the print run was increased to 70,000.

Data Sheets Wanted

Dear Sir,
Would it be possible for you to print a simple application circuit, or at least a pin-out diagram for the ADC0804 8 bit A/D converter? I appreciate that space in the newsletter is limited, but I feel that many computer owners would find this IC very useful in the construction of a paddle interface for computer games, as well as more serious applications. Failing this, could you possibly print the name and address of the manufacturer so that a data sheet can be obtained direct from him?

D. T. IRETON
Portsmouth, Hants

Most of the IC's with little or no data in the catalogue are of the sort where a large amount of data would be required to be of any practical use. The same applies to this IC, a pin-out or simple application circuit is not going to help you a lot in designing it into a particular circuit. The data sheet runs to 24 pages and we will supply a copy of it for 40p. We have to charge for data sheets or include the cost in the IC. This latter course would, of course, be unfair to those who are building a published project or who have bought the IC previously.

It actually costs us 63p to duplicate a 24-page data sheet, though the average data sheet is smaller than this and hence the 40p charge. It costs as much for the manufacturer to do it and whilst he doesn't mind if he then sells a thousand chips to one customer, he stands to lose a lot of money if he does it free for everyone who asks. Consequently the manufacturers are not overjoyed to have their address published and do, in fact, ask us not to.

Don't Sell CB Equipment!

Dear Sir,
The proliferation of 27MHz CB sets in Great Britain may indeed be largely due to slowness on the part of the Home Office to make moves to meet the growing demand for freer communication. However, until the Government allocates a citizens' band, whether it will be on 27MHz or not, all such sets are illegally operated (if, when legislation is made to authorize a citizens' band, this band is not on 27MHz, it will still, of course, be an offence against the law to operate the present imported CB sets).

It seems wrong to me, therefore, that Maplin should be stocking and advertising

CB equipment and a CB project book. At present the total number of offending articles is three. Partly because there is no legal citizens' band in this country and partly because Maplin is otherwise a good mail-order company, I hope that before long this total will be zero. I also hope that before long the Home Office will make provision for a citizens' band.

In a different vein, I would like to say that I myself would be willing to pay £1 for seven issues of the Maplin newsletter/price list. Please do not end your mailing list.

R. J. WATSON
Northwich, Cheshire

CB Book Is Very Useful

Dear Sir,
I received your March-May Newsletter and I have a few comments to make to the senders of the published letters on the upset that illegal CB operation is causing.

Mr J. Mathews outlined the fact that CB transceivers operating on the 27MHz band interfere with radio control transmissions. This is so but there are few cases in which it has been proved that CB operation has interfered with and cause damage to radio control equipment. I am a breaker in the Big N (Northampton) and I would like to point out the fact that any local complaints are put forward to the local '27' shop and in most cases a solution is found to stop the interference in certain areas and at certain times.

Maplin is a good supplier of all kinds of bits and pieces which includes a few CB accessories as Mr B. Franklin pointed out. As all CB operators in the UK operate on 27MHz whether it be AM or FM etc. It is likely to be made legal on this frequency due to the amount of people who because they have the sets already, they are not going to throw them away if CB is legalised on another frequency. Therefore I am getting to the point that Maplin is justified in stocking CB accessories to meet the requirements when it is made legal.

As Mr J. Sinstadt pointed out the book "Simple Hobby Projects for CB" should be discontinued. This leads me to believe that he has not read the book or even seen it. I would like to stress to other breakers that this is a very good book with, as it says, simple projects such as TVI filters, noise limiters and squelch circuits. Neither of these would increase the probability of interference on other equipment. I had some trouble obtaining some equivalents for the components, especially chokes and transformers, which I would appreciate if Maplin would kindly list out the equivalents in the next newsletter for myself and other people with the book.

A final word for any breakers travelling up to the big N, we break on channel 16 so why not give us a call here sometime. We're a nice bunch of breakers in and around town so whether or not you have a 10-33 on your hands or you just want a copy there is always somebody on channel.

By the way my handle is PINBALL and I am going now, so 10-10, TTFN, I'm down and gone, breaker break.

PINBALL
Northampton

P.S. I would be willing to pay £1.00 for seven copies of the newsletter.

Too Late To Change CB From 27MHz

Dear 'MAPLINS',
With reference to your March/May newsletter and the letters from Messrs Matthews, Franklin, Harrison, Lonnson and Sinstadt, I feel I have to reply to the aforementioned as part of my duty in the struggle to legalise Citizen Band Radio on 27MHz in this country. So far all the letters you have published have been from people opposed to 27MHz.

My argument and that of many breakers in this country is this: CB is on 27MHz throughout the world — for this country to be on another frequency is totally illogical. Even the arguments brought forward aren't strong enough for the Home Office to make their minds up.

If the Home Office were to decide to try and get us to move from our 'illegal frequency', how many already well-established stations and breakers would change

their equipment and be different from the rest of the world — not many, I can assure you.

Tests by some organizations have proved that RC interference is negligible and TVI only occurs on smaller 3W sets with poor modulation, and anyway can be cut out with the use of a TVI filter. What of the benefits of CB, how many emergencies could be dealt with quicker and more efficiently, one only has to look at European figures to see.

CB IS ON 27MHz: IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE!

The fact that you sell CB accessories cannot and doesn't alter your fabulous service and reputation. Keep up the great work.

EAGER BEAVER
Harrow, Middlesex

I must point out that all these letters were written prior to the announcement that CB is to be legalised on 27MHz, but only using FM. I believe this was a good decision. The government could not honourably abandon the radio control enthusiasts who have expensive equipment and paid their licence money for years. However, since making the announcement, what has happened... nothing. So the AM sets continue to proliferate. The government must move quickly.

Resistor Networks and Data Sheets

Dear Sir,
First and foremost I must congratulate you and your assistants for producing the best Maplin catalogue yet. Well done.

However, one or two small points have been overlooked.

On page 191 you introduce a selection of Resistor Networks. The catalogue description of these devices does not, however, make it clear that they contain thirteen resistors with a commoned connection, rather than thirteen individual resistors, nor does it state which is the common pin. Would it be possible to stock networks of individual resistors which are very useful for 7-segment display current limiting?

The second point concerns the two ICM counters on page 250 which I was very glad to see especially at your prices. Alas the catalogue does not contain descriptions of the switching requirements of the range, control and, in the case of the ICM 7226, the function inputs. Are these details supplied with the chips or must we buy the data sheets?

On page 248 I see you now stock the TMS1121 in place of the obsolete MM57160. However, there are no details of the key board connections, nor is there a pin-out diagram. Surely the latter should be included even if the former is not.

Lastly the 4-digit multiplexed displays you supply are not edge-stackable and therefore unsuitable for use with the 8-digit ICM counter chips. Could you not replace them with an edge-stackable variety?

Despite these minor errors and omissions I still think your catalogue is the best available for the hobbyist and I will continue to use it whenever possible.

N. J. MILLER
London SW13

Sorry we omitted the line drawing showing the connections of the resistor networks. The common is pin 14. The problem with these networks is that they work out expensive per resistor. For a manufacturer, of course, they save a lot of time in making the pcb, but for the home constructor I can see no advantage whatever. The cost per resistor in our packages is 5.3p approx., but in a seven resistor (i.e. individual resistors) pack the cost would be around 7.5p per resistor. So we are not at this time intending to stock them.

For reasons why we cannot supply data free, please see the letter "More Data Wanted". I must say that with both the ICM7216 and 7226 the data sheets are particularly good value for money as they show complete construction circuits for several frequency counters, timers etc. As to the TMS1121, I am pleased to say that Electronics & Music Maker will shortly be carrying a complete project based on this IC.

Regrettably 4-digit displays are hard to come by in relatively small quantities at reasonable prices and the ones we have are the only ones we can obtain at present.

Please Keep The Newsletter

Dear Maplin,
I'm pleased to hear the newsletter might be revived. Personally, I'm not prepared to take yet another electronics magazine; there are already far too many and the overall quality in some cases is not too good. So I do not welcome your taking the relatively scarce talented authors. But I certainly would be prepared to pay more for the newsletter if you keep it going, but I hope you will continue to include a few articles on circuits and not take them all for the magazine! £1.00 for 7 issues is reasonable but I hope you will not increase prices 7 times a year as well.

B. CONNELL
Aldershot, Hants

If you think the other magazines are not too good, then change to E&MM now, because the quality is superb and the projects and features excellent. The newsletter will not be published seven times a year, it will continue to be sold once every three months. The reason for seven issues is that if you obtain the catalogue when it is first released there will be seven more newsletters updating that catalogue before the next catalogue is published. So one initial payment brings you all the updates for any particular catalogue.

E&MM Not Wanted

Dear Editor,
As a customer of yours I see no reason at all why I should have to buy another monthly magazine to obtain your price list. I already subscribe annually to several magazines to avoid the problem of different publishing dates. I most certainly won't subscribe annually to another which I will only need every quarter.

I will, however, pay the earth for the convenience of your price list being delivered every quarter. The facts are simple — no price list — no orders. Do scrap the news but not the price list.

J. PAYNE
Enfield

We are sorry that so many people misunderstood our previous statements about the newsletter. We never actually said that you had to buy E&MM to get a copy of our newsletter, it is of course still available direct from us free of charge. Maybe we did get a little too enthusiastic about our newsletter appearing regularly in a national magazine, but we really never imagined it would be read as implying that we were forcing the magazine on you.

What Price PCB's

Dear Sir,
Firstly, well done on another great catalogue, even better than last time.

Two problems but:

1. I must agree with M. B. Lowe's letter in the March/May newsletter. Don't stop the newsletters. We should not be forced to pay for a magazine we don't want. I have subscribed to Electronics & Music Maker but I'm sure others would prefer to pay only a small charge like £1.00 for 7 issues than 65p for an unwanted magazine.

2. In E&MM the projects parts list give the Maplin order codes. Only the PCB's are not mentioned in the price list or catalogue.

How can we order these PCB's if we do not know how much they cost? Or are they just not available from Maplin, in which case why give Maplin order codes? Please put us in the picture even if it's only NYA!

L/CPL MANSFIELD
BFPO 23

The special parts for projects in E&MM are either priced in this newsletter or in a small advertisement that appears in E&MM.

If you would like to comment on any point raised here or have something interesting to say relating to electronics, radio etc. then please write to: The Editor, Maplin News, P.O. Box 3, Rayleigh, Essex. Please keep your letters as short and to the point as possible and please write neatly as our typesetters otherwise have difficulty deciphering the technical words and expressions. Please note also that letters addressed to the Editor will not receive a personal reply, so keep any correspondence on a separate sheet from any other enquiry or order. Thank you.